

Public Health Committee

Public Hearing March 7, 2016

Testimony Opposing Raised Bill No. 300

AN ACT CONCERNING NEW BRITAIN WATER COMPANY LAND

Thank you for the opportunity to speak on this issue today after an eight year hiatus.

In 2007, Tilcon, a wholly owned subsidiary of the CRH group with a dominant position in North American markets, proposed to extend activities into 130 acres of the Shuttle Meadow watershed.

Despite some local support of that, with the aid of hundreds of citizens of New Britain and from around the state, we accomplished what the citizens of Flint couldn't, and it was defeated.

Persistence is one of their virtues as a business, as is long-range planning. The present plan is essentially the same with more sugar-coating: A reservoir, land grants for open space, and money that will decrease in value with inflation over time. Towns and cities always need money, and trying to avoid a move and continuing in Plainville is worth hundred of millions to CRH.

Every day the quarry operates, the flow into the Shuttle Meadow water system is diminished, but that was lost in a different time.

We have laws and regulations to protect our rare natural water sources, streams, ponds and forests.

Mayor Stewart in her report on water quality in 2013 states "...we enjoy an abundant water supply from 8 sources.Shuttle Meadow, Wassel, Whigville, Wolcott, White Bridge, Hart Ponds, and Nepaugh Reservoirs, combined they hold about 3 billion gallons of water....also two wellfields... The department also leases the Patton bridge wellfield to the Town of Southington."

This system was designed when New Britain had about 15% more people and Stanley Works, Fafnir Bearings, Emhart, North and Judd, and numerous other factories needing water.

In the end, it is always about money. The time is past when we can sell off vital resources for temporary relief of budget problems.

Weakening the environmental laws impacts the whole state and beyond, as lines on a map do not limit the horrendous permanent damage this will do. We wish Tilcon well, but the sooner they stop destroying our landscape the better, and extending and prolonging their destruction of the Shuttle Meadow and Crescent Lake watershed would be criminal.

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